

MINUTES
WEST VALLEY LAND USE ADVISORY COMMITTEE (WV LUAC)
May 26, 2021

Chairman Steve Alejandro called the meeting to order at 6:05pm. Committee members present were: Steve Alejandro, Monty Long, Bruce Colburn, Paul McKenzie and Erica Wirtala. A quorum of the advisory committee was present. The meeting was held outside of the Planning Office building at the Flathead County complex in Kalispell as the building was locked and conference room unavailable. No County Planning staff was present. No members of the public attended.

The minutes from the April 28, 2021 meeting were reviewed and approved. Motion by Erica W. Second by Bruce C., motion passed unopposed.

OLD BUSINESS:

WV LUAC Bylaws:

- The proposed updated bylaws in final form were presented to the committee for signature by committee members. All members signed.
- Next step is to forward signed document to the Planning Office. The Office will then get the issue scheduled on the Commissioner agenda for review, discussion, public input and potential approval by the commissioners.
- Steve A. will get the document to the Planning Office

West Valley Survey:

- The survey is at the printer and ready for mailing.
- A discussion was had over how the mailing list was generated. Distribution will be via “mail routes” which generally line up with the boundaries of the WV Plan area. Some discussion about how a development off of Coclet Ln was added to the list as it would have been missed by the mail route method. Erica W. added the properties based off of Cadastral data.
- Paul M raised the issue of absentee landowners, PO Box holders, vacant land properties, and others who may not receive mail at a physical mailbox on the mail routes. Chairman A. discussed the difficulties in obtaining a mailing list of actual landowners from the County. There is no reasonable method for the County to provide such a list due to privacy policies in place. Paul M suggested the committee needs to figure out how to fill this gap as it will be a significant oversight in the survey to not make reasonable attempts to ensure all landowners have an opportunity to participate in the survey.
- Options were discussed on how to identify absentee landowners using cadastral information. Erica and Steve will explore more. Additional direct mailings may be necessary.
- The survey option on the County Planning Office website was discussed. Paul M relayed that he had taken the survey on line, but was not sure it was working correctly as there was no confirmation of acceptance when you hit the “submit” button. Steve A stated that he had not received any surveys in the e-mail address set up to receive them. Steve A and Erica will work with the county to resolve the technical issues there.
- A discussion was had about what to do with the data from the survey. Discussions of weighting various questions differently, how were we going to tabulate the information. How would it be used? Opinions were offered about how the information would be interpreted, informational, quantitatively, trending etc...

- The point was raised by Erica that this was just part of the public input process and that we needed to consider information gathered through the survey, public meetings and other methods appropriately.
- Questions about potential assistance in data compilation and processing from FVCC or other student body were raised and discussed.
- Decision was made to postpone decisions on how to process data until we have survey returns in hand.
- Some discussion about media and press outreach on the survey and WV Neighborhood Plan update process. Suggestions of print media such as Flathead Beacon, television, radio and social media were raised.

NEW BUSINESS

- Discussion of finding alternative location to hold future meetings. Planning Director suggested use of West Valley School. Steve A. has been in touch with the school and school board on this topic. Co-Vid restrictions have made the facility unavailable, but that may change given current Co-vid revisions. Steve will pursue. General agreement from the committee that this would be an appropriate venue if available.
- Discussion of next meeting date. Agreement to forgo June meeting due to various member unavailability and lack of substantive business until surveys are returned. Next meeting proposed for **July 28, 2021**, location to be announced at a future date.

GENERAL PUBLIC COMMENT:

No members of the public were in attendance.

Erica W. made a motion to adjourn, second by Bruce C. The motion was Passed unopposed at 6:51pm

Respectfully Submitted,

Paul McKenzie
Secretary
West Valley Land Use Advisory Committee